

# **MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD**

## **Media Release**

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## **502nd PSB – What have they done for you lately?**

by Sgt. Ann Drier

363rd MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – When Soldiers think of personnel services they think of identification cards, records, life insurance forms and plain old ‘paperwork’.

Granted, handling paperwork may not be the most exciting job in the Army but without it, Soldiers would have an impossible time keeping anything straight. Every Soldier wants to get promoted and get that new ID card that shows they have climbed another rung on the ladder of professional success.

“People come in to get ready for the boards,” said Pfc. Jordan Sewell, records noncommissioned-officer-in-charge at the Camp Liberty Personnel Services Battalion office. “They need to get their records straight. I enjoy doing this because I get to interact with people and help them out. I can look at a record and see what’s wrong – do extra things for people before they go to the board.”

Records are only one aspect of the work performed by Soldiers in the 502nd PSB.

If you have received a package, postcard, or letter in the last two months, a Soldier from the 502nd PSB’s post office handled it, sorted it, and sent it to the right location.

Spc. James Conner re-routes mislabeled packages at the Camp Liberty post office. Spc. Brian Wolfe, Spc Wileen Footsman, and Spc. Michael Carver, sort and direct packages, ensuring they are placed in the right bin for pick-up.

If you have changed your name, home or deployed address, been married or divorced, had a family addition or set up an allotment, a Soldier from the 502nd PSB handled the paperwork to make it official.

Chief Warrant Officer Sherrie Campbell is the database operations chief for Deployed Theater Accountability Software at Camp Liberty. Campbell is proud of the job she does, remarking “I’m in a position to ensure that every Soldier is accounted for properly, which results in ‘no Soldier being left behind’.”

If you’ve put in for a pass or leave, a Soldier from the 502nd PSB not only did the paperwork, they also arranged for flights to get you to your destination.

At Camp Striker, Pfc. Jason Weaver serves as logistics officer, in charge of maintaining accountability of Soldiers departing on four-day passes or fourteen-day environmental morale leave.

“I give them a briefing about what will happen while they’re here, which is usually about eight hours. I tell them about formations, where the (Dining Facility) and food court are, how to find the MWR tent and information about bus schedules. I also assign living quarters for those Soldiers coming in from outlying FOBs while they’re waiting for their flight,” said Weaver.

When they leave Camp Striker Soldiers will check in with Pfc. Blanca ‘Chiqi’ Chiquisinichi at the airport flight desk. “I check them on the manifest and let them know when their flight leaves,” said Chiquisinichi, who always adds “Enjoy yourself!”

If a Soldier is hurt on the battlefield, there will be a Soldier from the 502nd PSB at his or her side to collect important information that must be sent up to headquarters and to the Department of the Army to track their progress and status. The casualty liaison office has personnel at each brigade to assist Soldiers and medical staff in reporting accurate information about the injuries, condition of the patient, and whether transportation is required to a higher facility.

“When the casualty comes in they talk to the Soldier,” said Chief Warrant Officer Billy Fritz, 502nd’s casualty operation technician. “They get all the information and medical statistics as quickly as possible. They notify the D-Main of who the Soldier is, contact the unit for specifics and document the doctors’ perspective on the injury. They gather together all the information, combine it and create a report that is sent up to corps and to DA. All this happens in about two hours.”

“It’s an important job,” said Sgt. Maritza DeHaro, casualty liaison at D-Main. “We have to be sure that all the information is accurate. The Soldier has to know that their family gets the right information.”

The 502nd PSB has their fingers in a lot of ‘pies’ around the 4th Infantry Division. They have post offices at almost every location in the division’s area of operation. Most of the PSB operations currently in Iraq was set up by the 502nd back in 2003, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Divina Bobb. “It was taken over by 151st Postal when we left. It’s ironic to come back and continue our same mission from OIF-1,” said Bobb.

“The beauty of our personnel operations is that we have pretty enthusiastic soldiers, eager to learn new jobs,” said Bobb.

With organic troops as well as those from other units across the country, the 502nd PSB is spread across the whole 4th Inf. Div. area of operations handling newspapers, mail, promotions, leave and records.

“We think of them as a force multiplier,” said Lt. Col. Todd Garlick, commander, 502nd, “I believe that if you take care of Soldiers morally, ethically, and legally, and treat every action like it is your own, you can’t go wrong.”



### **Casualty Liasion**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – (from top center) Chief Warrant Officer Billy Fritiz, Spc. Rosa Arreguin, Spc. Erick Torres, and Sgt. Maritza DeHaro, all members of the 502nd Personnel Services Battalion Casualty Liaison office. Their mission with the 502nd PSB requires them to gather and disseminate casualty information within the 4th Infantry Division area of operation.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Ann Drier, 363rd MPAD)



**Pfc. Chiquisinchi - Biap**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- Pfc. Blanca Chiquisinchi, outbound LNO, 502nd PSB, checks the flight manifest for soldiers at Baghdad International Airport terminal. Chiquisinchi is responsible for tracking Soldiers going on pass or leave.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Ann Drier, 363rd MPAD)